

SHIGELLOSIS

Shigellosis is an acute bacterial disease of the gastrointestinal tract caused by a bacillus of the *Shigella* species. It is characterized by diarrhea, frequently bloody, accompanied by fever, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal cramping. Transmission is by the fecal-oral route from person to person or from contaminated food, water or milk. The disease is more severe in children than in adults and can be especially difficult to control in day care centers.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of *Shigella* sp. from a clinical specimen.

Case Classification

Confirmed: A case that is laboratory confirmed.

Probable: A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

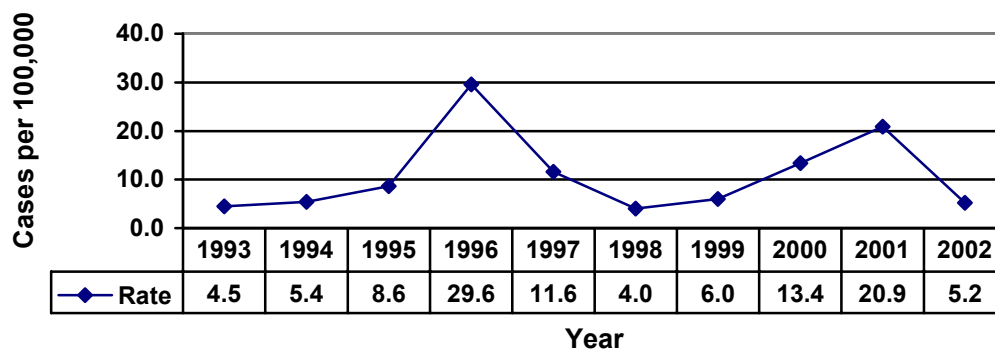
Epidemiology

Kentucky 2002	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000
Cases 210	5.2	7.19

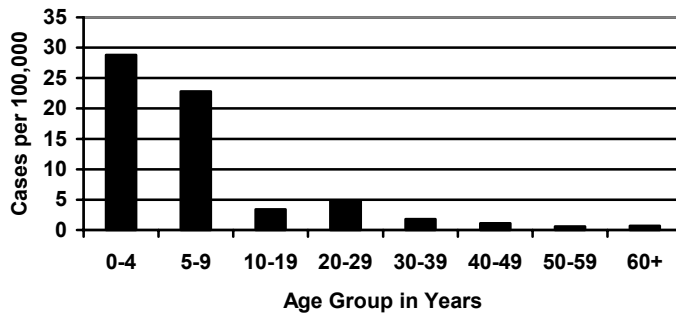
Cases by Gender

Female	116	5.6
Male	94	4.7

**Shigellosis Incidence
Kentucky, 2002**

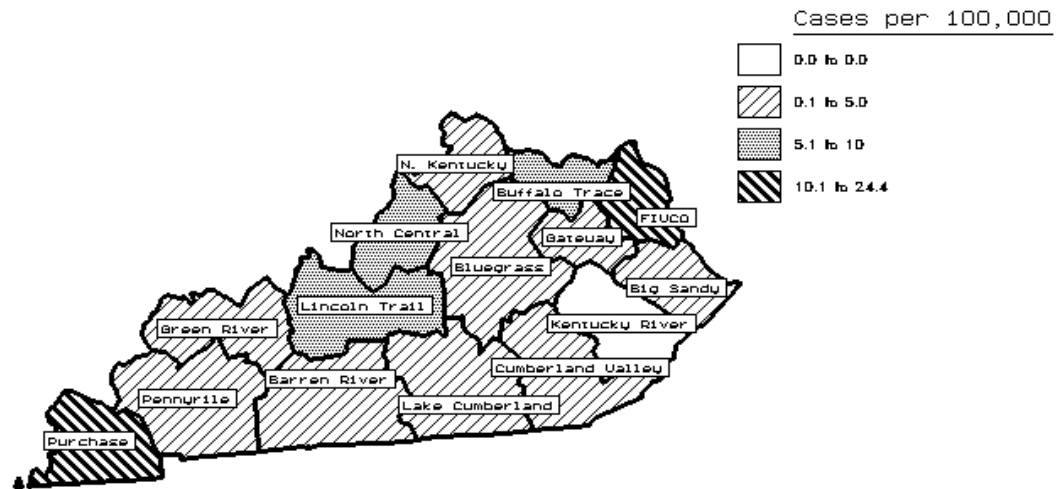


Shigellosis, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky 2002



The 0-4 and 5-9 year age groups experienced the highest incidence rates again in 2002, 28.8 cases per 100,000 and 22.8 cases per 100,000 respectively.

Shigellosis by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence 2002



District	Rate Per 100,000	District	Rate Per 100,000
Purchase	24.4	Buffalo Trace	9.0
Pennyrile	1.9	Gateway	1.3
Green River	1.9	Fivco	12.4
Barren River	0.8	Big Sandy	0.6
Lincoln Trail	6.1	Cumberland Valley	0.4
North Central	8.6	Lake Cumberland	2.0
Northern Kentucky	5.0	Bluegrass	2.0

The shigellosis incidence fell back to normal endemic levels for most areas compared to the numbers of cases from 2001. Purchase District again reported the highest incidence of 24.4 cases per 100,000.